

drawing. A drawing amendment to FIG. 3 is included herein, making the change requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner alleges specific problems with claims 1, 2, 3 and 6. The other claims inherit the rejection to claim 1. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 with attention to the Examiner's concerns. The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 6, stating that the word "substantially" is a relative term. Applicants respectfully note that the word substantially is used, and has been used in thousands of US patent claims. Its meaning and affect on the scope of claims has stood the test of time. Substantially means what it means and is intended to describe that a considerable quantity of the shape of one connector is the same as the shape of the other. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in compliance with section 112.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-10, as best understood in view of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by JP 10-208940. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is also believed to be patentable over the reference cited by the Examiner. Claim 1 includes the limitation:

"...one end of one conductor is connected with one end of the other conductor..."

The Examiner states JP 10-208940 discloses "...one end of the upper connector is connected with one end of the lower connector...". However, inspection of the drawings in JP 10-208940

makes it clear this is not the case. Instead the drawings are careful to show the top conductor is never connected to the bottom conductor.

The embodiment of Figs. 1-4 of JP 10-208940 shows (in Fig. 1) a dotted line outline of the bottom coil and a solid line outline of the top coil. The relationship of the coils is shown in cross section in Figs. 3 and 4. Inspection indicates no connection. Similarly the embodiment shown in Figs. 7, 8(a) and 8(b), and the embodiment shown in Figs. 9(a) and 9(b) indicate no connection.

The applicant of the instant invention has discovered the unexpected and non-obvious result achieved when an end of one conductor is connected to an end of the other conductor. The result is an inductor element with greatly improved characteristics as shown for example in Fig. 5. Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be allowable.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 8-10 depend from and include all the limitations of base claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-5 and 8-10 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 6-7, as best understood in view of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-208940. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 3 and 6-7 depend from and include all the limitations of base claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for

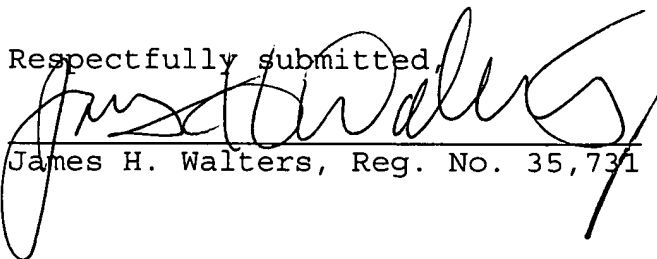
allowance, as already discussed above. Accordingly, claims 3 and 6-7 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claims 11 and 12 are added, and are submitted to be supported by the specification and drawings as filed. See, for example, FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, and the accompanying specification text portion on pages:

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicants' attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKUP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An inductor element, characterized in that said element comprises two conductors [one on the other] on a substrate [in a state where the two conductors are mutually insulated] one conductor being positioned above the other conductor the one conductor being insulated from the other conductor, and one end of one conductor is connected with one end of the other [while] conductor the [that] one conductor is an upper layer and is used as an inductor conductor.

3. (Amended) The inductor element according to claim 1, characterized in that said two conductors a have a first dimension being longer than a second dimension defining long shapes, and one end of one conductor in a longitudinal direction is connected with one end of the other in the longitudinal direction.